

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 5 as follows:

A three-dimensional structural component, and such as which may be constructed of an expanded and energy absorbing plastic/foam insert, fits within a negative facing side of the outer shell and further such that the outer shell accommodates for misalignments due to poorer dimensional tolerances associated with the expandable structural insert. The opposingly facing sides established between the foam insert and the thermoformed shell further include such as interengaging Velcro® portions, such as typically including first and second releasably engageable portions secured to the first and second opposingly facing surfaces, spring clips or other types of adjustable fasteners, and which facilitate inevitable misalignments due to the tolerancing variances of the expanded foam insert.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 19 of page 6 as follows:

An outer shell 16 is constructed of a relatively thin and typically thermoformed material, such as further including an acetyl butyl styrene or other suitable plastic based material and which lends itself to forming to a high degree of dimensional accuracy. An outline 18 of the outer shell 16 matches that indicated at 20 (Fig. 1) of the vehicle door 12 and provides consistent geometric tolerancing as required by standard industry designs for interior trim. It is further contemplated that a decorative covering 23 may be applied against an exterior facing surface 22 of the shell 16, the covering including such as a leather or vinyl cladding applied in a conventional manufacturing step.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 8 as follows:

As is known in the relevant art, expanded foam components typically exhibit a dimensional tolerancing of at least plus or minus one percent in size, and it is contemplated that a suitable dimensional misalignment tolerancing is established between a selected outer facing and three-dimensional surface 26 of the structural component 24 and an opposing and inner facing surface 28 of the outer shell 16 (see again Fig. 2). Interengaging portions are established between the opposing surfaces of the outer shell and structural component, see again at 26 and 28, and in a preferred variant are provided by such as Velcro® portions 30 and 32, such as typically including first and second releasably engageable portions secured to the first and second opposingly facing surfaces, applied along inner facing locations of the shell 16 which matingly engage against additional such portions 34 and 36 along the opposing surface of the expanded structural component 24. As best shown in Fig. 3, a spacing offset 37 is illustrated between the outer edge of the structural component 24 and the outer periphery 18 of the shell 16 and to accommodate the required tolerances associated with the expanded structural component 24.